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- [54] **COMPUTER SYSTEM WITH DIRECT
MANIPULATION INTERFACE AND
METHOD OF OPERATING SAME**
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- [58] Field of Search 395/155, 161,
395/157, 158, 159, 160, 156, 146; 345/145,
146

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A computer system, including a display screen and a direct input device such as a mouse, with a direct manipulation interface, through which the user can not only cause the computer to perform a predefined task by selectively indicating a symbol representing the task but also edit such symbols and their attributes by causing handle-like figures to appear on the screen near the symbol to be edited. The system is operable in two modes. One is a use mode for having a predefined task carried out and no handle-like figures are shown. The other is an edit-and-use mode wherein the user can cause the handle-like figures to appear or disappear but can also carry out every task that can be carried out in the use mode regardless of whether or not these figures are being displayed.

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